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STATINTL

U-2 Pilot Powers Is Granted Divorce; Must Pay Wife \$5000

MILLEDGEVILLE, Jan. 16 (UPI) — Former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers was granted a divorce today. He charged that his wife was a habitual drunk.

A jury deliberated the case for about one hour.

Powers was ordered to make a \$5000 cash settlement with his wife Barbara, and pay her attorney fees of \$500.

No provision was made for alimony.

Mrs. Powers was not in the courtroom when the verdict was announced. She had just stepped out for lunch.

Powers charged in the trial that while he was in Soviet prison his wife treated him to such an extent that "even the Russians got worried."

Powers sparked an international controversy with an abortive reconnaissance flight over Russia in 1960.

Powers, 33 years old, petitioned for divorce from his wife of eight years last August, seven months after his release from prison in exchange for Soviet spy Rudolph Abcl. He had served 20 months of a 10-year sentence for espionage. Powers charged that his wife was habitually drunk and abusive. Mrs. Powers, 28, in a countersuit charging that Powers failed to treat her like an average American housewife.

Powers said he went as long as 45 days without a letter from his wife when in prison. She was so delinquent in her writing, he said, that it became a matter of concern to American and Russian officials in Moscow.

He said that he received several packages from his wife but some contained such "cheap magazines" that he had to request other reading matter.

"The only person who ever mistreated me while I was in prison in Russia was my wife, Barbara," Powers said.

Mrs. Powers testified that she married Powers "for companionship, love and children but I didn't have an opportunity for that." She said she was unaware at the time that Powers had been assigned by the Central Intelligence Agency to make U-2 flights over Russia and accused him of taking "our future" into his hands without my knowledge.

After the news broke that her husband's plane had been shot down over Russia, she said, "The phone rang constantly and there were reporters everywhere. I couldn't breathe or sleep. I just shook all the time." She said that she "suffered just as much as Gary did when he was in prison."

She said that when Powers returned to this country "he took all his bitterness out on me." She denied she was an excessive drinker.

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